



take the road less traveled!

By Joy Hulse

It's so clichéd to go to a city and follow the same touristy
must-do checklist that guy in the fanny pack is following.
Do that. Check. Go there. Check. See that. Check.

Wouldn't it be more interesting to leave that well-worn route and take a walk on the wild side? In that case, check out the Palmetto State's roads less traveled: greenways.

So what is a greenway? Well, it's not an organic grocery store or the protocol for hippy-environmentalists. A greenway is, in essence, an environmental corridor connecting people to places and nature. It's a ribbon of greenspace, paved or unpaved, for the use of recreation and alternative transportation, in addition to preserving and protecting the environment in urban and metro areas. And that is what makes greenways so different.



Photo courtesy of Fort Mill Photography.



Anne Springs Close Greenway



Three Rivers Greenway



Swamp Rabbit Trail

The next time you're touring South Carolina's capital city, take the **Three Rivers Greenway** to get to your destination. Instead of weaving in and out of traffic, take in a breath of fresh air as you stroll along the Congaree, Saluda or Broad rivers. This trail connects Columbia, West Columbia and Cayce, while offering tons of recreational activities including jogging, nature watching, fishing, kayaking and canoeing. While you're at it, bring along your furry friends, as this greenway is dog-friendly, and make a day of the Three Rivers Greenway.

If you enjoy (really) long walks on the beach, then grab your sweetheart and head for the **East Coast Greenway**, an ambitious project linking the cities of the East Coast from Maine to Key West. And if a 3,000-mile promenade doesn't strike you as romantic, then take a shorter section of this greenway in any of the coastal South Carolina cities for that quiet stroll, a workout session before laying out at the beach or a nice bike ride as a break from shopping.

On any given day, the **Greenville Hospital System Swamp Rabbit Tram Trail** is bustling with locals and visitors admiring the windows of the art studios, chit-chatting over tea beside the Reedy River, watching children chase ducks on the riverbank or rollerblading in Cleveland Park. You can't help but be "in the moment" at all times while here.

While you're savoring the charm of Thoroughbred Country, make sure to experience the breathtaking sunset over the Savannah River on the **North Augusta Greenway**. This trail is truly an exemplar of natural beauty having earned a Stewardship Development Award for its outstanding natural resource protection.

If you're looking for more of a natural haven than a natural highway, Fort Mill's **Anne Springs Close Greenway** is a great place to bring the kids for a fishing excursion or an afternoon picnic with its rolling pastures, forests, creeks, fishing ponds and Lake Haigler.

Greenways are sprouting up everywhere in South Carolina,
so the next time you're here, take the road less traveled!

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